



27th District

[www.sen.ca.gov/Lowenthal](http://www.sen.ca.gov/Lowenthal)

# THE LOWENTHAL LETTER

From the Desk of Senator Alan Lowenthal



## WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Friend,

Welcome and thank you for reading the first edition of the Lowenthal Letter from the California State Senate. As you know, on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 I was sworn into the California State Senate. It was an awesome and humbling experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

In December we moved into our new office on the third floor of the State Capitol building in room 3048. You are most welcome to come visit our new home. In January, President Pro-Tempore Don Perata selected me as Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. I was also appointed to the following committees:

Banking, Finance & Insurance; Fisheries and Aquaculture, Budget and Fiscal Review, Education, Labor and Industrial Relations, Higher Education, Budget Sub 2, Natural Resources and Water, Transportation and Housing, California Ports and International Trade, Air Quality, Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation, Defense and Aerospace.

In addition to serving on these committees, I have introduced an extensive legislative package. Included in the list of 22 bills, I address issues such as gun safety, childhood obesity, public health and

reapportionment. I am also carrying legislation to ensure that our ports are environmentally safe and successful and can serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

I look forward to hearing any questions, comments or concerns you may have. Please feel free to visit, call, write or email to inform me of your views. I am honored to be the representative of the 27<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

-Alan Lowenthal

## COMMUNITY COFFEE EVENT



**Saturday, June 11**  
**Mooncents Coffee House**

*9853 Belmont Street*  
*Bellflower, CA*  
*9:30 am. - 11:00 am.*

Come join me for some coffee and a discussion on legislative issues, current matters in Sacramento and share your ideas, comments and concerns.

## THE DISTRICT

I am proud to represent the 27<sup>th</sup> District of the state of California. In addition to Avalon, Long Beach, and Signal Hill (which I represented in the Assembly), I welcome Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Florence-Graham, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, Lynwood, Paramount, South Gate, and Willowbrook. I look forward to spending time in each of your cities and representing your issues in the Senate.

I would like to encourage you to contact my district offices to keep us apprised of any matters of importance to you. I am also very interested in participating in community events whenever possible, and hope you will keep me and my staff informed of them.



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## MY WEB SITE

I am very proud to announce the launching of my new Senate web site which includes features to make it an interactive site. You can find my web site at [www.sen.ca.gov/lowenthal](http://www.sen.ca.gov/lowenthal).

This web site is designed to answer all of your legislative questions. It allows you to look up various bills, committee meetings and how individual members voted on a bill. My specific page addresses a broad spectrum of information. From district weather and local events to my bill package and press releases, you can find it all here.

Coming soon to my web site is an online BLOG and virtual office hours where we can discuss any concerns you may have. I hope you find the answers to your questions on my web site. Should you want to have something added to this site, or if you have any questions, please contact me at [senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov).



*California State Senate Fact: California State Senators represent more constituents than the entire population of seven different states (846,791 per district)*

## Honoring a Friend



On April 11, 2005, I was honored to present Robert Maxson, President of Long Beach State University, with a Senate Resolution that commemorates his service and dedication to Cal State Long Beach.

President Maxson announced his retirement after 11 years of service. He will be greatly missed by the university community.

One of Bob's legacy's to CSULB was creating and establishing a program to actively recruit the most academically talented high school students in the state. This program aggressively targets California valedictorians and National Merit Scholars. Today there are 380 valedictorians and National Merit Scholars attending the university.

During his 11 year tenure with CSULB, he has been named President of the Year four times by the student leaders of the 23 campus California State University system. His leadership has been invaluable to students, faculty and staff. I know he will remain a part of our community, and is wished much success in future endeavors.



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## TABLE TALK

*\*I will include topics in this section that are controversial at the capitol and will give you something "TO CHEW ON" during discussions over a meal with your family, friends, and co-workers.\**

### Assembly Bill 654 - Compassionate Choice Act

**Authors:** Assembly Members Berg and Levine

**This Bill:** will allow physicians to prescribe life ending medication to terminally ill patients upon request of the patient .

#### Background Information:

- The California Compassionate Choices Act is based upon Oregon's successful Death with Dignity Act, approved in 1997. The Act allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults, with six months or less to live to legally obtain and use prescriptions to end their suffering.
- From 1997 through 2004, 208 patients have obtained and ingested the prescription. The number represents one tenth of one percent of all Oregon deaths.
- 70% of Californians say that incurably ill patients should have the right to ask for and receive life-ending medication (The Field Poll, 2005)

#### Bill Facts:

- Terminally ill is defined as an adult with six months or less to live.
- The patient must make an informed decision and be provided in writing the feasible alternatives, including comfort care, hospice care and pain control.
- The patient cannot be coerced by next of kin or any third party.
- The patient must be evaluated by two physicians.
- The patient must be mentally capable.
- The patient must self-administer the prescription.
- Physicians may refuse to participate with the Act.

**Supporters Say:** that a terminal illness can leave patients to suffer for months on end with the only promise of certain suffering and death. The bill would allow these patients to die with dignity. AB 654 has built in necessary safeguards to make sure only people with incurable/terminal illnesses can utilize this right. Patients have to be mentally capable, duly informed of all other options, and must self-administer the prescription.

**Opponents say:** that misdiagnosis is only one of the many problems with this bill. They contend that the bill's restriction to "terminally ill" patients is not reassuring given that many people "terminally ill" go on to live full and meaningful lives. In addition, opponents feel that some patients will chose death over becoming disabled. Some opponents worry that if policy-makers support this proposal people living with disabilities will be pressured to end their lives for cost or other reasons.

#### What Do You Think?



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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

(Spotlighting some of our bills)

**SB 760 -- Ports: congestion relief: security enhancement: environmental mitigation: user fee.** Imposes a user fee of \$30 per each shipping container processed at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Specifies that the funds from the user fee be used in the following manner: one-third of the user fee go to the South Coast Air Quality Management District use the funds to mitigate environmental pollution caused by the movement of cargo to and from the ports via commercial motor vehicles, ocean-going vessels, and rail; one-third to the California Transportation Commission to use the funds to alleviate congestion on the highways serving the ports by improving the rail system that transports shipments to and from those ports and the on-dock rail facilities at those ports; and one-third of the funds to be split between the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles for port security projects. **STATUS: In Senate Appropriations 5/16/05.**

**SCR 40 -- LNG Siting: FERC.** Memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action to preserve state and local authority over the siting of liquefied natural gas terminal. Declares that California deserves siting authority over LNG facilities within its borders. Opposes FERC's attempt to gain eminent domain authority for siting LNG facilities in the United States. **STATUS: PASSED Senate Energy 5/3/05.**

**SB 479 -- Childhood obesity mitigation: Long Beach.** Establishes the Long Beach Childhood Obesity Mitigation Pilot Project, to test the effectiveness of a multijurisdictional, public-private partnership effort to mitigate the problem of childhood obesity. The project shall establish policies and procedures that give preference to Medi-Cal eligible children whose participation which will generate federal matching funds. **STATUS: Senate Appropriations. ON SUPSENSE 5/2/05.**

**SB 764 -- No Net Increase in Emissions: Ports Los Angeles/Long Beach.** Requires the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to meet a baseline emissions level no later than January 1, 2008. **STATUS: Senate Floor 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading 5/16/05.**



## How to Contact Me

Long Beach  
115 Pine Ave. Suite 430  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 495-4766  
(562) 495-1876 fax

Paramount Office  
16401 Paramount Blvd  
Paramount, CA 90723  
(562) 529-6659  
(562) 529-6662 fax

Capitol Office  
State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 651-4027  
(916) 327-9113 fax





27th District

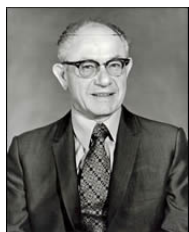
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## District Fact



In 1957, Frank Zamboni, invented and developed a machine for the purpose of resurfacing ice in an ice rink. The machine, later to be called a Zamboni, was created and used at the Iceland Skating Rink in Paramount, California. Iceland opened in 1940 and is still located at the corner of Jackson Street and California Avenue in Paramount.

## My Committee Assignments

### Standing Committees

- Environmental Quality (Chair)
- Banking, Finance & Insurance
- Budget and Fiscal Review
- Education
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Natural Resources and Water
- Transportation and Housing

### Joint Committee

- Fisheries and Aquaculture

### Sub Committees

- California Ports and International Trade
- Budget Sub #2
- Los Angeles County MTA
- Higher Education

### Select Committees

- Air Quality
- Coastal Protection and Watershed Conservation
- Defense and Aerospace

## Meet My Staff



### DISTRICT STAFF

Mark Pulido, District Director  
Cine D. Ivery, Field Representative  
Luis H. Marquez, Field Representative  
Bridget Sramek, Field Representative  
Robin McCray, Office Manager

### CAPITOL STAFF

John Casey, Chief of Staff  
Joshua Tooker, Legislative Director  
Leticia Garcia, Legislative Assistant  
Darren Schwartz, Legislative Assistant  
Nicole Anaya, Executive Secretary

### SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE STAFF

Randy Pestor, Senior Committee Consultant  
Bruce Jennings, Senior Committee Consultant  
Ann Boone, Committee Secretary

### SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE on CALIFORNIA PORTS & GOODS MOVEMENT

Norman Fassler-Katz, Committee Consultant